



Getting the Most from Your Visit to Fort Davis

Welcome Recruit!



You are about to embark on an expedition into history. Every mission requires preparation. Without preparation, you can run into big problems. My regiment and I invite you to prepare for your trip by becoming familiar with the country into which you are traveling.

The sergeant has prepared some orders for you to read about your mission. Read your orders carefully! Learn the essentials and you will be ready for the expedition.

Order #1

Use good reading strategies.

Before reading, consider:

- What is my purpose for reading?
- What do I already know?
- What will I learn about this topic?
- Look at the headings and illustrations to get a sense of what the article is about.

While reading, consider:

- Does what I am reading make sense?
- How are the important points related to one another?
- What can I do to increase my understanding?
read further on, re-read, or try a different strategy?

After reading, consider:

- What were the important points?
- What sections supported these points?
- What is my opinion about what I read?
- What new information did I learn?
- Can I summarize what I just read?

Order #2

Now, soldier, read the following articles and answer the questions.

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 9-12

Student Activity: Overview Using Park Literature

The First Fort Davis 1854-1862

Read the park information on the First Fort Davis and answer these questions.

1. Fort Davis was initially established in _____.
It was named in honor of _____, who was _____.
2. What was the purpose of the fort?

3. What event made travel on the San Antonio-El Paso Road become important? _____

4. Why do you think it was difficult for infantry soldiers to protect the road from Indian raids?

5. Why did the U.S. Army bring camels to the Southwest?

6. What happened to the camel experiment?

7. When did the Federal troops leave Fort Davis? Why?

8. How long did the Confederate troops occupy the fort?

9. In 1867, why do you think the fort was rebuilt in the flat area east of the canyon instead of the original site back in the canyon?

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Curriculum Materials Grades 9-12

Student Activity: Overview Using Park Literature

African Americans in the Frontier Army

Read the park information on the African Americans and answer these questions.

1. What did the 1866 “Act to Increase and Fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States” do?

2. Name the black (African-American) Regiments established by the Act.

3. Which regiment was stationed at Fort Davis in 1867? _____
Were the regiment’s officers also black? _____
Explain. _____

4. Which black regiment played a vital role in the Victorio and Geronimo campaigns?

5. Company I of the 25th Infantry constructed what essential service for the southwestern forts?

6. What was another name for the black regiments? _____

7. Design a bookmark to highlight the accomplishments of the African-American regiments in the Southwest? Turn the page sideways to create your bookmark.

**The Buffalo Soldiers
at Fort Davis**

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Curriculum Materials Grades 9-12

Student Activity: Overview Using Park Literature

Black Recipients of the Medal of Honor from the Frontier Indian Wars

Read the park information on the men who received the Medal of Honor and answer these questions.

1. What is the Medal of Honor and why is it given?

2. Summarize the reasons these soldiers received the Medal of Honor.

- a. Private Emanuel Stance

- b. Sergeant George Jordan

- c. Sergeant Thomas Shaw

- d. Sergeant William McBryar

- e. Sergeant Benjamin Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mays

- f. Private Adam Paine

- g. Private Factor, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, and Sergeant John Ward

3. Which Medal of Honor winner(s) would you like to meet? What questions would you ask them about their heroism? Write your answer on the back of the paper.

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Student Activity: Overview Using Park Literature

The Post Hospital at Fort Davis

Read the park information on the post hospital and answer these questions.

1. Why was it important to have good medical care on the frontier?

2. Name the type of rooms that were part of the hospital? Are they similar to today's hospitals or doctor's offices?

3. Where did some of the Fort Davis post surgeons get some of their medical experience?

4. List the duties of the post surgeon.

5. List the other members of the hospital staff.

6. If you had lived at the time, would you have wanted to be treated by a Fort Davis surgeon? Why or why not?

3. If you were a wife and mother at that time, which would you choose: to travel by train or to travel with the regiment? Give your reasons.

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Student Activity: Park Handout Discussion Literature

Color Brochure of Fort Davis National Historic Site

Brochures are often used as introduction and to provide information to the public. The Fort Davis brochure provides visitors with general information necessary to understand and enjoy a visit to the park.

1. Scan the brochure. What is the largest item on the brochure? _____
Why do you think this occupies the most space on the brochure?

2. Looking at the map and the building key, how many buildings are restored?

3. Looking at the map, explain how can you tell which buildings are restored and which buildings are still ruins?

4. Using the map and the descriptions, which three buildings would you especially try to see if you had a limited amount of time? Why?

5. Look at the other side of the brochure. What does the top article tell you about?

6. Summarize in one paragraph the role Fort Davis played in American history.

7. Where did the name “Buffalo Soldiers” come from, and why were they called that?

8. What were some of the leisure-time activities of the Fort Davis enlisted men and officers?

9. Which tribes of Native Americans traveled through the Trans-Pecos area of Texas?

10. Which Native American trails crossed the San Antonio to El Paso Road? Where were the Indians heading when using this trail?

11. Enter the following items on the Texas map. Use the brochure to help you.

- a. Fort Davis
- b. Great Comanche War Trail
- c. San Antonio-El Paso Road
- d. Mexico
- e. El Paso
- f. San Antonio
- g. Rio Grande River
- h. Apache Trails
- i. Pecos River
- j. Bonus: New Mexico

